

March 16, 1973

(Start of Belt #8)

founded before Senator Duis arrived here in the Legislature for the second time. I think the school has proven to me on a trip that I took with the Legislature some six years ago that it is doing the job that is needed there, and I wish that the Legislature this morning would pass this bill on its way to Select File and pass it into law. It is necessary that it join the state system.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Stromer, then Senator Skarda.'

SENATOR STROMER: Mr. President, I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: The previous question has been moved. Does the chair see five hands? Thank you. The question is shall the debate now close. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. You are voting to close debate on LB 336. Have you all voted? The clerk will record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, 21 not voting.

PRESIDENT: The debate will now close. Senator Duis, you may close on LB 336. Senator Duis, is now closing. Senator Stahmer, would you turn off your white light, please. Thank you. Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, very briefly in answer to Senator Nore, no one has attempted to take anybody to task on this. Merely the question was asked why to be against something when we are all trying to be for something. I want them to absolutely know and I explained it to these Educational Service Unit Directors who are, supposedly, for all of this but against this school that we would be more than happy to assist them in what they desired to have, too, but we are not sure that they are going to get what they want. We are not sure they are all going to have all the counties in. We are not sure they are going to have these programs. This is a special school. I have not asked for this at any particular time for just one more year. I've asked for this program to be continued. This is a reasonable program of around eighty some thousand dollars from the state of Nebraska which is very meager. These youngsters come from all over the state of Nebraska and capacity, when reached, is the only reason for denial from any place in the state of Nebraska. This is not a school for the children of my district. This is a school for the children from your district that need help and, believe you, me, there are quite a number of them from other districts in this school. We are trying to help these youngsters' mental retardation. This is eighty some thousand dollars. We are going to ask millions for penal reform. I think these youngsters do deserve priority. We can make useful people out of these handicapped children and, believe you me, I am going to stay right up here and I am going to fight with any effort that I've got or any means that I've got to keep these youngsters in there and I'm sure that Senator Nore and Senator Whitney feel exactly the same way. They want equality. I do, too and I'm going to help you. You help me. I'll help you because we are all for these youngsters and I commend both of you. You're real fine gentlemen and you are after and want help for these youngsters. Some of these Educational Service Unit Directors have been misguided, and I am sorry to say so. I have talked to other one of the Educational Service Unit Directors who think this school is fine. They are getting help from it. They are getting instruction from it and I wish everyone of you could have seen the documentary film on this school. It was shown a couple of times. I was inclined to bring it down here and show it to all of you, but I didn't think it was necessary because I was sure the Budget Committee would understand because they understood this problem. So what let's do, let's work together here and see if we can work this thing out so that we can keep our school at Cozad, Nebraska.